

### Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method performed by a computer of rating a computer system's ability to run software applications, wherein the rating facilitates matching of software application requirements with computer system capabilities, the method comprising:

performing an inventory of the computer system, wherein the performing an inventory yields a set of computer system features;

testing performance of the computer system, wherein the testing yields performance results for the set of computer system features;

comparing the set of computer system features and the performance results with capability rating requirements, wherein the capability rating requirements comprise a required set of features and required performance criteria;

determining a capability rating for the computer system based on the comparing; and  
outputting the capability rating.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the performing an inventory includes performing an inventory of hardware components in the computer system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the performing an inventory further includes performing an inventory of features of the hardware components.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computer system comprises components, and wherein the capability rating is based on a lowest component rating among the components.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the capability rating requirements are established by a board comprising voting members.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising assigning the capability rating to the computer system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the capability rating is an integer number.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising presenting the capability rating in a standardized rating presentation.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the acts are performed in an operating system environment of the computer system as a feature of the operating system environment.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the acts are performed by a capability tool.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the capability tool is a software program obtained from a remote computer via a network.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the capability tool is a software program run from a remote computer via a web browser interface.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the capability rating requirements are obtained over a network from a database.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the capability rating requirements are obtained from a storage medium in the computer system.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the capability rating is further based on a category for the software applications, the category selected from a group comprising: entertainment software, computer-assisted drafting software, operating system software, image processing software.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the capability rating is associated with a vendor identifier for the computer system.

17. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

18.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method performed by a computer of rating a computer hardware component, wherein the computer hardware component is operable to perform functions in a computer system, and wherein the functions are useful for running software applications on the computer system, the method comprising:

- performing an inventory of the computer hardware component, wherein the performing an inventory yields a set of computer hardware component features;

- testing performance of the computer hardware component, wherein the testing yields performance results for the set of computer hardware component features;

- comparing the set of computer hardware component features and the performance results with capability rating requirements;

- determining a capability rating for the computer hardware component based on the comparing; and

- outputting the capability rating.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the capability rating is based on a lowest feature rating among the set of computer hardware component features.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the capability rating is an integer number.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the capability rating requirements are established by a rating requirements decision-making organization.

34. (Original) The method of claim 30 further comprising assigning the capability rating to the computer hardware component.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 further comprising presenting the capability rating in a standardized rating presentation.

36. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the acts are performed in an operating system environment of the computer system as a feature of the operating system environment.

37. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the acts are performed by a capability tool.

38. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the capability rating requirements are obtained from a device driver signature for the computer hardware component.

39. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the capability rating is associated with a vendor identifier for the computer hardware component.

40. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 30.

41.-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A software system on one or more computer-readable media, the software system for rating a computer system's ability to run software applications, the software system comprising:

- means for performing an inventory of the computer system, to yield a set of computer system features;

- means for testing performance of the computer system, to yield performance results for the set of computer system features;

- means for comparing the set of computer system features and the performance results with capability rating level requirements; and

- means for determining a capability rating level for the computer system based on the comparing; and

means for outputting the capability rating level.

47. (Currently Amended) A software system on one or more computer-readable media, the software system for rating a computer system's ability to run software applications, the software system comprising:

means for performing an inventory of a computer hardware component, to yield a set of computer hardware component features;

means for testing performance of the computer hardware component, to yield performance results for the set of computer hardware component features;

means for comparing the set of computer hardware component features and the performance results with capability rating level requirements; and

means for determining a capability rating level for the computer hardware component based on the comparing; and

means for outputting the capability rating level.

48.-53. (Canceled)